

February 29, 2008



News from the

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN

For and about employees of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS plays a major role at National Board meeting

Assistant Director Gary Frazer represented the Service at the February 20-21 meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board at Tampa Bay Watch in Florida. The Regions were represented by Fisheries ARDs or senior staff. The Fisheries Program Management Team (ARDs and WO leadership) met in advance of the Board meeting on February 20.

A milestone in mutual understanding was achieved, as the Board approved documents defining how the Service and the Board interact with respect to budgets. Bob Ashworth, the Service's Deputy Assistant Director - Business Management and Operations, prepared the documents while on detail at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. This action was the culmination of several months of internal and external consultation. Contact tom_busiahn@fws.gov for more information or see http://www.fishhabitat.org/board/documents/feb08/Tab13c_Budget-Funding-Project_Process.pdf

FY 2008 Projects Approved

On February 19, Acting Director Ken Stansell approved a slate of 63 projects in 28 states for funding under the Action Plan in 2008. The Service contribution is \$2.4 million, with an expected partner match exceeding \$6.9 million. The Service requested and received concurrence on the projects from the National Fish Habitat Board. Submitted by the Service's Regions, the projects address habitat-related priorities of the five recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships (<http://www.fishhabitat.org/action.htm>). Contact susan_wells@fws.gov for more information.

Demonstration Projects planned for FY 2008

Plans are underway to fund "Demonstration Projects" identified in consultation with Candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships in 2008. The thirteen Candidates are in various stages of development, and several are interested in conducting projects to demonstrate early successes in aquatic habitat conservation. A total of \$600,000 is available. Contact tom_busiahn@fws.gov for more information.

Update on Fish Habitat Partnerships

On February 20, the National Fish Habitat Board recognized the Western Native Trout Initiative (www.westernnativetrout.org) as a Fish Habitat Partnership under the Action Plan, bringing the number of full-fledged Partnerships to five. A total of 13 developing partnerships have written letters of intent to the Board, and are considered "Candidate" Fish Habitat Partnerships. In chronological order, the Candidates are:

- Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership
- Desert Fish Habitat Partnership
- Ohio River Basin Habitat Partnership

- Southwest Alaska Conservation Coalition
- Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
- Kenai Peninsula Conservation Partnership
- Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee
- National Reservoir Partnership
- Salmon In The City (Anchorage, Alaska)
- Fishers And Farmers Partnership (Upper Mississippi River)
- Great Lakes Basin Partnership
- California Fish Passage Forum
- North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership

Fish Habitat Partnerships to meet with Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture will host representatives of the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership and the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership at the March 10-12 meeting of the ACJV Management Board. The purpose is to foster communication between the fish and bird habitat partnerships, which are likely to find many opportunities to leverage resources in future years. Contact [Andrew Milliken@fws.gov](mailto:Andrew.Milliken@fws.gov) for more information, or see www.acjv.org.

Upcoming Events

AFFTA National Casting Call, April 27-28, 2008, Washington, DC. Contact: Tom Busiahn, 703-358-2056, tom_busiahn@fws.gov

Enhancing the States' Lake Management Programs - Building Partnerships for Improved Fisheries and Lake Water Quality, April 29 – May 2, 2008, Chicago, IL. www.nalms.org/Conferences/2008Chicago. Contact Bob Kirschner, bkirschn@chicagobotanic.org

National Fish Habitat Board, May 13-14, 2008, Arlington, VA. Contact Susan-Marie Stedman, 301-713-4300, Susan.Stedman@noaa.gov

FLOW 2008 - Interdisciplinary Solutions to Instream Flow Problems, October 7-9, 2008, San Antonio, TX. www.instreamflowcouncil.org.

For more information

www.fishhabitat.org

The place to go on the web for general information on the National Fish Habitat Action Plan

<http://www.fws.gov/fisheries/CAF/Habitat.htm>

A web site about the Action Plan with information tailored for FWS employees

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